



City of Long Beach

GARY DeLONG
COUNCILMEMBER, THIRD DISTRICT

May 11, 2007

The Honorable Dana Rohrabacher
US House of Representatives
2338 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Mitigation Credits for the Los Cerritos Wetlands

Dear Congressman Rohrabacher:

During the City Council's Federal Legislation Committee trip back to Washington, D.C. in March 2007, we discussed the City's efforts to acquire and restore the Los Cerritos Wetlands. The Los Cerritos Wetlands is one of the largest remaining tidal wetland properties that have significant portions under private ownership in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. The once vast wetland areas have been reduced by urbanization to approximately five percent of their pre-urban extent.

The Port of Long Beach is receptive to providing funding for restoration of the wetlands, but requires the appropriate approvals from the regulatory agencies in the Department of the Interior.

As we discussed, Long Beach greatly appreciates your assistance in requesting that the federal agencies provide the Port of Long Beach with flexibility to receive mitigation credits for restoring the Los Cerritos Wetlands. This solution would require no federal funding yet make an enormous positive impact on the City of Long Beach. Attached is a draft letter we hope you will send to the regulatory agencies on our behalf, requesting this flexibility.

Thank you for your willingness to help with this issue.

Sincerely,

Gary DeLong
Chair, Federal Legislation Committee
Third District Councilmember

CC: Bob Foster, Mayor, City of Long Beach
James C. Hankla, President, Port of Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners
Gerald R. Miller, City Manager, City of Long Beach
Richard Steinke, Executive Director, Port of Long Beach